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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19641

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1997 • SIVAN 15, 5757 • 30 MOHARRAM 1418

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Special Shavuot Issue
The Magazine



Beavis and Butt-head: Designer depravity
Time Out

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Zvilli quits party post

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party secretary-general Nissim Zvilli yesterday tendered his resignation to new party chairman Ehud Barak, who accepted it in a terse meeting.

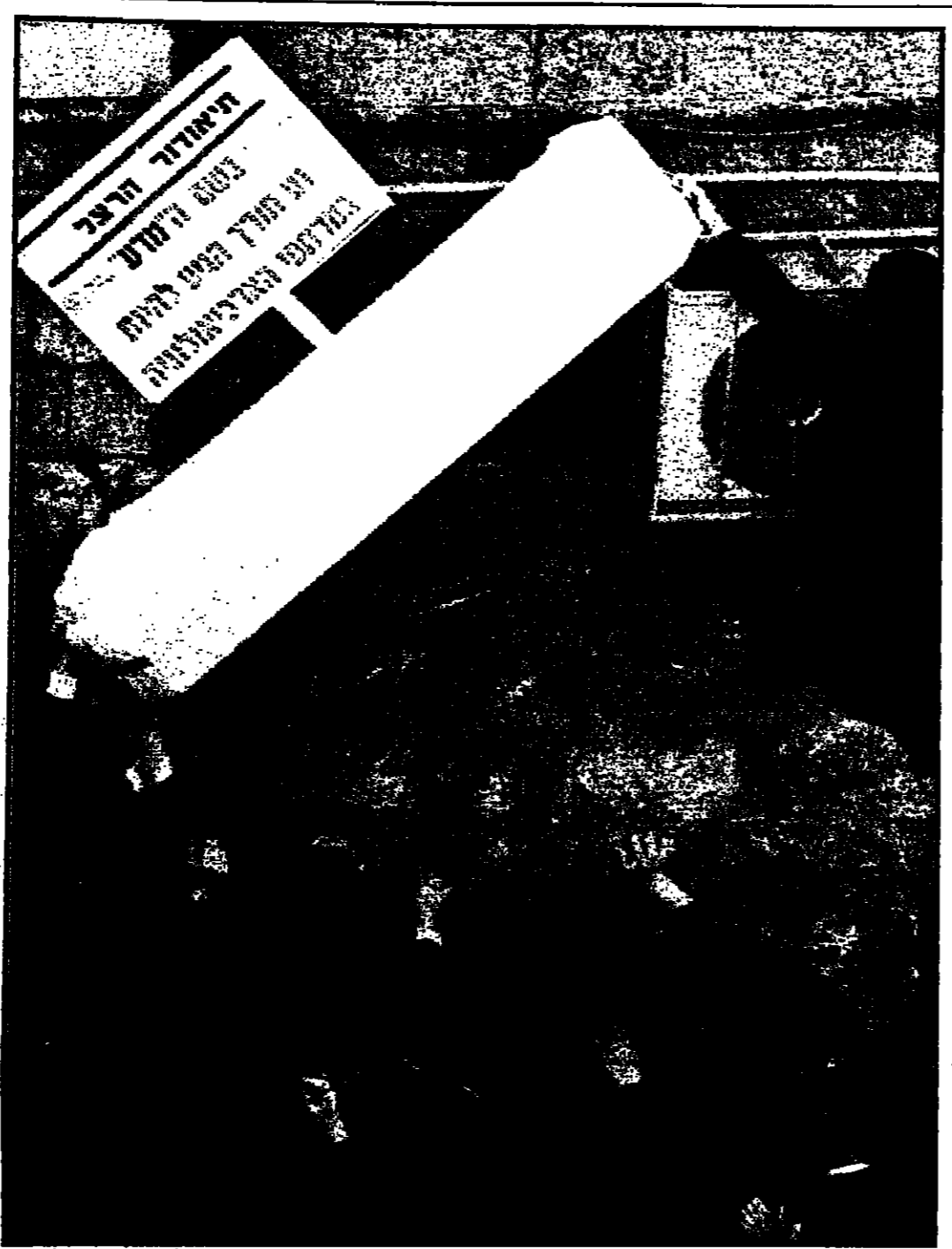
Barak will soon decide if he wants a new secretary-general at all. Barak began his first day of business as party chief still in his campaign office suite in Ramat Gan. Barak will move into the party headquarters on Tel Aviv's Rehov Hayarkon Sunday.

Zvilli had announced in advance of the Labor leadership primary that he would resign as soon as a new chairman was elected.

Zvilli was instrumental in bringing Barak into Labor less than two years ago, but their relations had soured considerably, especially after Zvilli orchestrated the campaign to appoint Shimon Peres to the specially created role of party president.

Zvilli advised Barak not to do away with the secretary-general's post, but Barak listened without reacting.

See ZVILLI, Page 2



Burial cave protest
Haredim hold aloft a mock coffin marked "Theodor Herzl" in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim section yesterday, to protest archeological excavations of burial caves at Rantis, near Petah Tikva. The estimated 25,000 demonstrators blocked traffic in the capital for several hours. (Brian Hender)

Levy slams 'Allon-Plus' plan

By JAY BUSHINSKY and LIAT COLLINS

In a sudden burst of dissent, Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday assailed the "Allon-Plus" plan as a premature disclosure made without prior consultation with other cabinet ministers, and publicized despite the "damage" it could cause Israel's negotiating stance.

Interviewed by Dan Semama on Channel 1's *Mabat* news, Levy said no map has been drawn and no proposal adopted by the cabinet.

"There may be preliminary,

embryonic ideas, but there is no cabinet decision," he said, adding that the ministers are still in the early stages of discussion of "a very serious subject," the impending final-status talks.

"Many of the ministers do not

cept. "As long as these ideas have not crystallized and the deliberations still are in their earliest stage, circulation of these notions only can cause harm."

He contended that the various aspects have not yet been weighed and therefore there is no ministerial consensus.

Asked about his personal position, Levy replied: "You won't hear it here. There is a [cabinet] table where the matters most vital to the state are determined and where our most essential interests are considered."

'Optimistic' el-Baz returns from US, Page 2

have a clue about this proposal," he said, noting that undoubtedly each one has a position and a con-

See LEVY, Page 14

Missing family sought near Jericho

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and Itim

Intelligence sources reported last night at midnight that a missing Jerusalem wedding party had been traced to an Arab village in the Jericho area. Police were reported in contact with the Palestinian Authority.

Police and IDF troops had been searching throughout the evening for the Pell family from Jerusalem, after they failed to arrive for a son's wedding, to have taken place at Moshav Hazorim near Tiberias.

Eli and Claudine Pell, their son, Uri, who was to get married, and two of his friends were last seen

leaving Jerusalem at noon yesterday.

When they failed to arrive for the wedding ceremony, worried relatives contacted police to inquire if there had been any traffic accidents.

Judea and Samaria police spokesman Opher Sivan said the family left Jerusalem and drove through the Jordan Valley. "They were supposed to have gone via Kibbutz Lavie and pick up someone else on their way to the wedding," he said.

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, a relative of the Pell family, told Israel Radio that everyone was trying to remain calm and was relying on the security forces to investigate.

Arich O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

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Beersheba 7:19 p.m.	8:18 p.m.
Eilat 7:15 p.m.	8:20 p.m.

Sting to join Sinead for J'lem concert

By DAVID BRINN

Who says rock stars are no longer politically active? Sting is likely to join Sinead O'Connor later this month in a gala concert to promote a joint Israeli-Palestinian project calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

"The aim of the concert is to raise people's consciousness of the Jerusalem Link and its project, Sharing Jerusalem," said the project's associate producer, Gina Benevento, yesterday.

The concert, slated for June 21 at Sultan's Pool, outside Jerusalem's Old City, is funded by the European Community, the Ford Foundation, the Danish Embassy, and the French, Belgian, Swedish, and Spanish consulates.

The Jerusalem Link - Israeli and Palestinian women working for peace - was founded in 1994 by Bat Shalom and its Palestinian counterpart, the Jerusalem Center for Women.

Spurred by the mantra, "Two capitals for two states," Sharing Jerusalem is the pet project of Bat Shalom, which describes itself as a feminist center for peace and social justice aiming to work toward a democratic and pluralistic society in Israel.

The project has included art exhibitions by Israelis and Palestinians, and tours of Jerusalem which emphasize coexistence, but the concert is its first major effort at widespread exposure.

O'Connor, who just released a CD dedicated in part to the people of Israel and which displays a Magen David, will perform with Palestinian and Israeli musicians.

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US, Israel conclude strategic dialogue

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israel and the United States ended their biannual strategic talks yesterday, with Israel outlining its links with Turkey, Jordan, and other countries.

promise to maintain the IDF's "qualitative edge" and ways to keep this edge over the years.

The atmosphere at the talks was said to be "very good" and the Israeli representatives, led by David Ivry, special adviser to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, bid adieu to his US counterpart, Assistant Secretary of State Ted MacNamara, who will be stepping down. US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk also participated in the talks.

According to a Defense Ministry statement, the two sides spent a good deal of time during the two-day dialogue discussing regional terrorism and efforts by Iran to arm itself, particularly with long-range missiles and non-conventional weapons. They also discussed assessments of the region.

Diplomatic sources said the US and Israel see eye to eye on the potential military threat posed by Iran to all of its neighboring states, with the possible exception of Pakistan. They noted that the Taliban Islamic extremists ordered the closure of the Iranian Embassy in Kabul, evidently

because of Teheran's support for dissident Shi'ite factions in Afghanistan. The Taliban movement subscribes to the Sunni denomination of Islam.

Iran was described as a threat to the former Soviet republics of Central Asia, the Arab emirates of the Persian Gulf, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. Also taken into account was Iran's ongoing logistical support for Lebanon's Hizbullah guerrillas.

There was a consensus on the need to maintain economic sanctions against Iran and Iraq and a clear understanding that Israel is adhering to the ban on direct or indirect arms sales to the Teheran regime. This is in line with a commitment made by the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and stringently upheld, the sources said.



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (left) shakes hands with Artur Yisraelovitch, against whom he testified yesterday.

(Israel Sun)

Prosecutor halts Kahalani testimony in Yisraelovitch trial

By RAINE MARCUS and Itim

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday appeared in Tel Aviv District Court as a prosecution witness in the trial of Artur Yisraelovitch, the former Histadrut treasurer charged with fraud and breach of trust.

But the prosecution stopped his testimony in the middle, on the grounds that it might damage the "honor of the Israeli government."

Kahalani first answered most of the prosecution's questions, and said that while he was chairman of Yisrael Kessar's campaign to be reelected Histadrut

chairman, he still received a salary from the Amal schools and drove a Histadrut-owned vehicle.

"These are the norms in political life," said Kahalani. "Often vehicles and other benefits are used for personal purposes."

Yisraelovitch's lawyer Avraham Landstein said he

would write to the attorney-general questioning these "norms" and argued that his client only behaved accordingly. Landstein also said he would request Kahalani's investigation.

Landstein's line of defense has been that Yisraelovitch behaved according to the accepted norms and did not break the law.

Ben-Ari remanded five more days

By RAINE MARCUS

Following a marathon two-day hearing, a Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court judge yesterday remanded businessman Zvi Ben-Ari (formerly known as Gregory Lerner) for a further five days.

Police believe Ben-Ari is one of the heads of the Russian underworld here and is responsible for the murder of a banker in Russia, conspiring to kill another, and defrauding Russian banks of \$85 million.

Police also wish to investigate whether Ben-Ari bribed civil ser-

vants or donated money to politicians. Channel 2 last night showed excerpts of an interview with Ben-Ari prior to his arrest, in which he said he supports the Likud Party and had been present at conferences with certain politicians.

For the time being police have frozen their investigation into the murder in Russia, mainly due to a lack of cooperation from their Russian counterparts. Russian police, several of whom have been murdered while investigating the underworld's activities, apparently fear retribution if they forward information which can

incriminate Ben-Ari. Ben-Ari, who has been in custody for a month, refuses to cooperate with investigators.

As in previous hearings, the

courtroom where Ben-Ari appeared was heavily guarded and a helicopter was deployed, following information that his associates might try to effect his escape.



Ya'acov Ne'eman (Issac Herzog)

Ne'eman testifies for Olmert

By RAINE MARCUS

The defense counsel for Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert produced a surprise final witness in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday, former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman.

Olmert's lawyer, Yigal Arnon, apparently called Ne'eman without the knowledge of the prosecution, so the latter would not be prepared for cross-examination. By law defense attorneys do not have to inform the prosecution of their witnesses in advance.

Olmert is charged with obtaining donations from organizations and then issuing invoices declaring the funds were contributed for advertising purposes, when he was Likud treasurer during the 1988 elections.

Ne'eman was then an adviser to the Likud. Moshe Arens had asked Ne'eman to be the external auditor for the party's donations, and Ne'eman said Arens insisted at the time that Olmert was not responsible for invoices of donors.

What's on at the Festival



- Jerusalem Theater - Sperover - Russian theater, *Macbeth*, tomorrow, 9 p.m.
- Henry Crown - Tahmasebi baroque ensemble, tomorrow, 9:15 p.m.
- Rebecca Crown - Nagj dance, *Woyzeck*, today, 1 p.m.
- Northern Stage - *Animal Farm*, tomorrow, 9:30 p.m.
- Plaza - Bohemian saxophones, from the Czech Republic, tomorrow, 9 p.m.
- Little Theater - Nostalgic and international songs, tomorrow, 9 p.m.
- Foyer - Jerusalem Jazz Band, tomorrow, 11:45 p.m.
- Gerard Behar - *Slave Showshow* today, 3 and tomorrow 9 p.m.
- Jerusalem International Conference Center - World music, Omar Faruk Tekbilek, tomorrow, 9 p.m.
- Domitien Abbey - organist Dorothy de Rooij, tomorrow, 9 p.m.
- Yag - Anniversary concert, today, 11 a.m.
- Hangar, Talpiot - theater, *Arab Dream*, tomorrow, 9 p.m.

Trumpeter Roy Hargrove got off the plane Tuesday night and jazz fans at the festival got a treat. Hargrove and his quintet held a jam session in the foyer, four hours of it. Then he signed autographs. Later on Wednesday, he toured Jerusalem and signed more autographs. Yesterday, he went to the Old City. Last night, his sold-out concert was a smash hit.



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Strife-torn Algeria holds peaceful vote

By ELAINE GANLEY

ALGIERS (AP) - With many saying they were voting for peace, Algerians cast ballots under heavy guard for a parliament yesterday. The vote came five years after the army canceled similar elections, triggering an Islamic insurgency.

Some 300,000 security forces were deployed around the country to guard against attacks by Muslim militants trying to sabotage the vote.

They stood watch at school houses in the capital, where voting stations were located, and deployed in the sunny streets.

Except for the military presence, there was no sign of the strife that has killed some 60,000 people since the January 1992 army coup that aborted the nation's first multiparty parliamentary vote to thwart a likely victory by the

Islamic Salvation Front.

Many of those encountered at polling stations, worn down by violence, said they were casting a vote for peace in this petroleum-rich North African nation.

Bombings in the capital "paralyze us. We're living in a veritable psychosis," said Amel, a 26-year-old doctor.

"I voted for change. We can't live like this anymore," said Amel, who like others questioned refused to give her full name, fearing reprisals by the military regime.

Amel said she cast her ballot for the Rally for Culture and Democracy, a fiercely anti-Islamic party with its base in Algeria's Berber country.

President Liamine Zeroual needed a large turnout among the 17 million eligible voters to ensure the aura of democracy he seeks through the new parliament, even

though its powers will be far less than the one that would have been elected in 1992.

The Interior Ministry said turnout was steady by the afternoon, registering 43% at 4 p.m.

But turnout in several Algiers polling stations looked sparse. Only 10 of 272 people registered at a women's polling station in the pro-Islamic neighborhood of Bab el-Oued voted by noon.

Initial estimated results were expected shortly after polls closed at 8 p.m., with final results expected late into the night.

Some 40 parties fielding 7,747 candidates were vying for 380 seats.

Voting was being monitored by some 240 international observers, here under the auspices of the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity.

But they were spread thin to watch 35,000 polling stations.

They were brought in to answer Zeroual's bid for a fair vote, following charges of fraud during a November referendum that changed the constitution to further strengthen presidential powers.

"What's the point of voting?" said Fatima, a 47-year-old woman with five children who lives with her family in a school where her mother is a janitor.

"Each time we vote, nothing changes. We only get death."



An Algerian woman registers to vote yesterday at a polling station in Algiers.

(Reuters)

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Joe and Karyn Gold & Family
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Emotional appeal for McVeigh to die

DENVER (AP) - Prosecutors wound down their emotional bid to get the death penalty for Timothy McVeigh yesterday, with a surgeon describing how he amputated a woman's leg without anesthesia to free her from the rubble of the Oklahoma City bombing.

"Once I started cutting she started kicking and screaming," said Dr. James Sullivan, a professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Oklahoma.

"She screamed, don't leave me, don't leave me, I'm going to die," he said. "It was gut wrenching." Prosecutors planned to wrap up their case yesterday in the sentencing phase of McVeigh's trial. The defense is then expected to call McVeigh's relatives to talk of his troubled past and ask that he be spared death by injection.

McVeigh, 29, was convicted Monday of murder and conspiracy charges in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The explosion killed 168 people and injured more than 500 in the worst act of terrorism in US history.

The jurors who convicted McVeigh will decide whether he should die by injection, or spend his life in prison.

Boat raises fear of N. Korean invasion

SEOUL (AP) - A North Korean patrol boat crossed the border yesterday and exchanged fire with a South Korean gunboat, briefly raising alarms in a nation already on edge over what its impoverished northern neighbor might do.

Two South Korean jet fighters scrambled to the scene and more were ordered on standby, Defense Ministry officials said. But the tension abated when the South concluded that the intrusion by the North Korean ship, escorting a fishing fleet, was unintentional.

The North Korean boat fired three rounds from a naval gun when it was challenged by three

South Korean high-speed gunboats after sailing 2 nautical miles into southern territorial waters, the ministry said.

From a kilometer away, a South Korean gunboat responded with two shots in the 50-minute standoff, 150 km west of Seoul, that ended when the North Korean boat returned to its own waters.

The ministry said each ship fired behind the other's stern.

It characterized all five rounds as warning shots. There were no casualties, it added.

But the South Korean government convened an emergency meeting of security-related

Cabinet ministers.

Hours later, officials said the North Korean ship appeared to have made a navigational mistake while escorting nine fishing vessels operating in the rich fishing grounds near the border.

South Korea said it was not putting its military on higher alert because of the incident. There was no further unusual military movement along the Demilitarized Zone.

The South's wariness has increased amid fears that the North may launch armed clashes to divert attention from severe food shortages.

"We consider this a serious violation of the armistice agreement," the Defense Ministry said. "We will protest through the UN Armistice Commission," which monitors the shaky truce.

The intrusion was the most serious since a North Korean submarine carrying 26 armed spies and crewmen ran aground off South Korea's east coast in September.

In all, 24 North Koreans from the submarine were killed or found dead. Eleven South Korean soldiers and civilians were also killed. One sailor was captured, and another intruder was listed as missing.

US double agent gets 23 years

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia (AP) - The highest-ranking US intelligence officer ever caught spying was sentenced yesterday to more than 23 years, averting life in prison after prosecutors said the former CIA station chief cooperated with investigators.

Harold J. Nicholson, who admitted selling secret documents to Russian officials at four overseas meetings, pleaded guilty to espionage and agreed to forfeit his spying gains and any future profit from sale of his story.

Nicholson admitted he conspired since June 1994 to commit espionage by selling Moscow defense documents, including some classified "top secret."

Nicholson said he spied out of love for his three children. He said he wanted to get money for the children who he felt he let down by spending so much time overseas in dangerous situations, and failing in his marriage.

Irish go to polls today

DUBLIN (Reuters) - Ireland holds elections today to choose between the center-left coalition of Prime Minister John Bruton and a rival center-right alliance under Bertie Ahern that has led opinion polls from the start.

Bruton's Christian Democrat Fine Gael and its left-wing allies has presided over an era of unparalleled prosperity, earning the economy the title "Celtic Tiger."

The last poll before voting starts showed Ahern's Fianna Fail and its smaller Progressive Democrats ally nine points ahead of Bruton's two-and-a-half-year-old "rainbow coalition" of his Fine Gael, Labor Party and Democratic Left.

But the survey, in yesterday's *Irish Independent* newspaper, showed that as many as 14 percent of the 2.7 million electorate remained undecided, a variable which reinforced forecasts of a hung parliament.

In a televised debate Wednesday with Ahern, Bruton appealed to voters to return an incumbent for the first time in 30 years.

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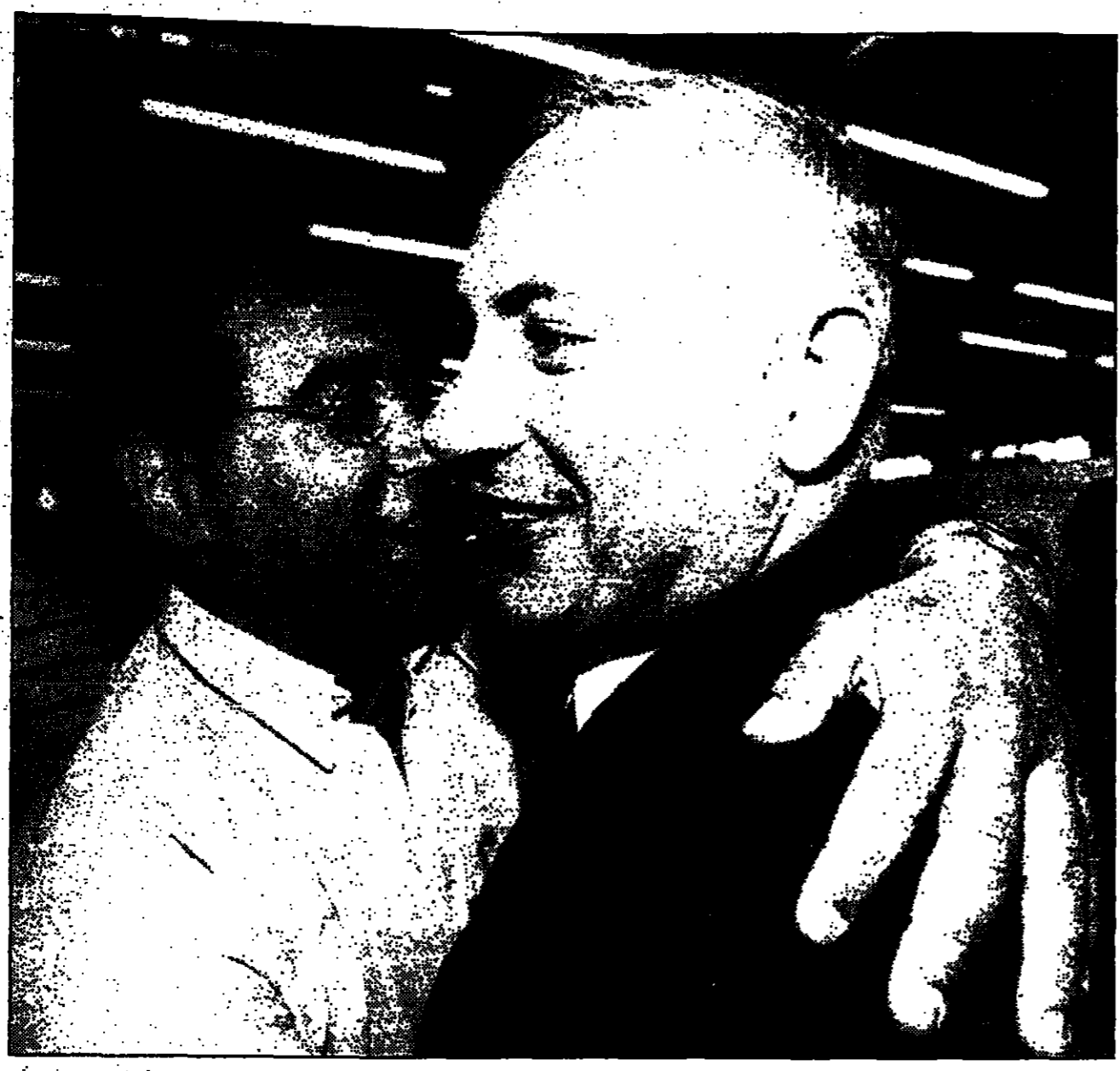
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NEWS in FOCUS



Anything you can do, I can do better: Barak's undisguised goal was to score as well in his party's leadership primary as Netanyahu did in the Likud's 1993 contest.

(Ahn Ron Israel Sun; Gidon Markowicz)

In Netanyahu's footsteps?

In his effort to defeat Binyamin Netanyahu at the polls, Ehud Barak will have to out-Likud the Likud, Sarah Honig reports.

It made perfect sense for Ehud Barak to claim in his victory speech after Tuesday's Labor Party leadership primary that he now heads the "true national camp," and to punctuate this with the obligatory cry "with God's help."

Barak knows that from now on, he'll have to spend a lot of his energy proving that his is no down-to-earth. So it is no wonder Barak spoke of hugging his Labor rivals and that some of his more dovish promoters chose to stress that he had met Arafat only once, fewer times than Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and much more reluctantly. Nor did they fail to note that he did not support Oslo 2 and that he shared Ariel Sharon's reservations about the Hebron agreement.

In other words, in his effort to defeat Netanyahu, Barak must out-Likud the Likud.

So far, this tactic has worked pretty well for him. The primary demonstrated that he had convinced the majority of Labor members that he alone can defeat Netanyahu in the next election. It was Barak's ideology or personality which brought him his landslide victory, as much as his virtual claim that "anything Bibi can do, I can do better."

This is why it became so crucially important to surpass the 52% of the vote that Netanyahu had won at in the Likud primary in 1993. Barak indeed appeared to have succeeded when TV exit polls promised him 57% of the total. Barak was in politics for only 23 months and he won his party faster and bigger than Netanyahu did, crowed Barak's boosters in reaction to the TV projections. When it emerged later that he only got 50%, there was palpable disappointment, though the difference was insignificant in the internal party configuration. It was clear that Barak would have no trouble trouncing Yossi Beilin, Shlomo Ben-Ami and Ephraim Sneh.

Bearing Bibi's record was the undisputed goal.

Yet the "actual task ahead is triumphing over Netanyahu in a real one-on-one, and it may be more difficult than imagined," says the late Yitzhak Rabin's right-hand man, Shimon Sheves.

"A close examination of the primary vote should instill much concern in the heart of the honest analyst. Appearances can be very misleading. It appears that Barak won a tremendous landslide, certainly unequalled in Labor's past. But there was never a contest like this before, when a leadership candidate had it so easy.

"Don't forget that when Rabin won the leadership in 1992, he did so by taking on the entire Labor establishment. Shimon Peres controlled the party machine and Rabin won narrowly against great odds. This time the party establishment was on Barak's side from the outset and he didn't really face much of an opposition."

Many in the party indeed say that this was a mock competition, that Barak was shooting baskets against an assortment of bench warmers. The more formidable Haim Ramon chose to sit the game out, regarding Beilin as a substitute for him. Ben-Ami had never aimed at a hoop before (and did amazingly well, considering), while Sneh had no business walking out on the court at all. The results were never in doubt.

This was a far cry from David Levy's bristling hatred for Netanyahu and the ensuing no-holds-barred viciousness of their showdown. Nor did Barak face anything like the threat to Netanyahu from the potential

vote-getting magic of Ze'ev Begin's surname. All of Netanyahu's rivals ranked high up in the Likud Knesset contingent. Barak's rivals all ranked comparatively low on the Labor Knesset list - Sneh is No. 8, Beilin 11, and Ben-Ami is in the very last slot, No. 34. None was major-league material.

"People voted for Barak because they were convinced by him that he is the one man who can bring Labor back to power by taking the votes of right-wingers away from the Likud, much as Rabin did," says Sheves. "The worrying thing is that with all this going for him, Barak did not do better than he did. This means that despite his being considered the only man who can assure Labor of victory, half the voters chose not to vote for him."

"If this is translated into an election bout against Netanyahu, it does not necessarily augur well for us," he says. "It's a long way to the next elections and nothing can be predicted today on the basis of this highly atypical primary."

Sheves's anxieties are echoed by Labor pundits who analyzed the turnout figures. Former MK Eli Dayan, who organized the primary, argued that the high turnout

- nearly 70% of 166,000 registered party members aged 16 and up - indicated "an outpouring of enthusiasm for the renewal in Labor. It shows that the voters are flocking back to us, that we are again an attractive electoral option."

However, over 30,000 party members came from the kibbutz movement and more than 19,000 from the Arab sector. The turnout among both these groups was extremely high, in some places close to 90%.

But in many cities, the turnout was less than 50%. The large urban centers are the crucial make-or-break factor in a general election; the arena in which the contest is waged. The 205,000 members eligible to vote in the 1993 Likud primary were largely city dwellers. Moreover, the Likud is younger. A quarter of Labor's members are pensioners.

"It will be a long hard struggle till the elections. Rabin's great advantage was that he won the party leadership on the eve of the 1992 elections and was a new hope then," Sheves says. "Barak peaked early and could suffer wear and tear if the elections are not advanced. If by 1999 he declines in the polls, he may face challenges from within and then

we will witness a real fight."

ONE SUCH challenge may come from Ramon, who clashed bitterly with him during the 1996 elections campaign, which they both managed, and who feels that Barak wrongly and maliciously blamed Peres's defeat on him.

That calumny, Ramon asserts, forced him to stay out of the primary this time, but he points out that Labor's rules demand ratification of the candidate for prime minister one year before the elections.

To Ramon's mind that is an opening for a challenge and he has gone on record as saying he might take Barak on.

The prevalent wisdom in Labor is that he will not do this, unless he perceives that Barak has been weakened in some way.

But the very possibility that he may challenge Barak has raised Ramon's political stock. He is considered likely to vie with Beilin for the leadership of Labor's doves. Ramon is already intimating that he could have done Barak far more serious damage than Beilin. Since Ramon did not actually take the risk, no one can prove him wrong. Moreover, because some in the party fear he is capable of bolting Labor and forming a new centrist party, Ramon is someone Barak must reckon with and mollify, even if in reality Ramon has few alternatives.

For his part, the soft-spoken Beilin managed to inject a very real warning to Barak into his

sugar-coated denial that it had never entered his mind to form a new camp or faction inside Labor. In the same breath, he noted that he is "part of a united cohesive ideological group and we will stick together and support each other in any situation and under any circumstances. I don't need anyone to give me power. I already have power."

So though Beilin won't call his supporters a camp and no one else in Labor now finds it politically correct or advantageous to refer to it as such, Ramon, Beilin, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, outgoing party secretary-general Nissim Zvilli and others, are a force that cannot be dismissed.

They will demand their piece of the party pie and an ever-wary and suspicious Barak will have to go out of his way not to alienate them.

Moreover, this unofficial faction will compete for clout against Barak's own loyalists, who have also developed the trendy aversion to being called a faction.

Binyamin Ben-Eliezer managed to hint at this latent contention while ostensibly seeking to reassure Beilin and Ramon by saying that "no one in the party need fear for his political future. There will be no vendettas here. The unequivocal Barak victory signifies the end to internal factionalization in Labor. It's a thing of the past. Over and done with."

See FOOTSTEPS, Page 12

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The third day: A personal account

Veteran 'Jerusalem Post' reporter Abraham Rabinovich recalls the day he walked past deserted Israeli and Jordanian checkpoints to enter the Old City for the first time.

A banshee wail startled me out of deep sleep and it took several seconds before I registered that I was lying on a grassy slope, that I was in Jerusalem and that there was a war on.

It was mid-morning of Wednesday, June 7, 1967, two days into the Six Day War. I had arrived from the US a week before to cover the crisis for an American newspaper. Since the shooting began I had been spending most of my time in border neighborhoods absorbing the awesome sights and sounds of war. I could see the impact of shells in that virtual Jerusalem, at once tangible and unreal, just across the way. In a strange acoustical phenomenon, the sound of explosions reverberated around the hills cupping the city, seeming to roll round and round and grow louder and louder until they died in a climactic thunder-clap.

At night, a huge projector beam from the roof of the Histadrut building on Straus Street periodically swept across the landscape, pinpointing targets for artillery spotters. At first there would be only brief spurts of light but when Jordanian artillery failed to fire at the projector it would hold a target for long minutes. The white cone seemed like a theatrical spotlight on an enormous opera stage. Sometimes, when something erupted in its center, it was like a divine finger of retribution.

The war had its own rhythm. The noise of explosions and gunfire was deafening. But often the city was still enough to hear the distant barking of a dog or the sound of an electric transformer that one would ordinarily not hear on the street. Jerusalem has never been as silent as it was during these battle lulls.

At night, darkness was virtually total. Emerging from the blacked-out premises of *The Jerusalem Post*, then off Zion Square, where I was given access to a typewriter, I had to feel my way with hands and toes in order to reach the censor's office in the Russian Compound two blocks away. From there I would feel my way to the tele office in the main post office to send my stories abroad.

The streets seemed totally empty. I was startled one night to see a car slowly approaching without lights near the border. It stopped alongside me and the driver asked directions. There were two helmeted soldiers inside. They had apparently driven a wounded comrade to hospital in the Jordanian car that they had expropriated and were trying to find their way back to the crossing point. I identified myself as a reporter and asked them to take me with them but they refused.

Residents of the border areas were trapped in their homes for the two days of the war, sometimes less than 100 meters from Jordanian positions. The Jordanians maintained heavy artillery and mortar fire on the border area to break up any Israeli attack that might be forming. (Mortars would inflict heavy

casualties on a paratroop battalion waiting in the alleys of the Beit Yisrael quarter to cross no-man's-land opposite the American Colony Hotel.)

Border residents, mostly at the lower end of the socio-economic scale, bore their fate with remarkable fortitude. Virtually all young and middle-aged men had been mobilized, leaving womenfolk, children and the elderly. The din of battle was all around them and it did not take an overactive mind to imagine Arab soldiers bursting through the door. I visited many of these houses and nowhere encountered panic. The residents assembled on the ground floor of their buildings as instructed by civil defense wardens before the war and formed a commune for the duration, cooking together and sharing care of the children. In one basement, I found the residents sitting in a circle, most with children on their laps, taking turns telling stories.

ABOUT 3 a.m. on the first night, I was on Shivtei Yisrael Street when a heavy barrage suddenly began to descend. Colonel Mordechai Gur's paratroop brigade had begun its attack on the northern end of the Jordanian line between the American Colony Hotel and Ammunition Hill, and the Jordanians were shelling with everything they had all along the border.

Shaken by the intensity of the blasts, I ducked into a building and found an empty lobby which had too many windows to offer a sense of security. Hearing voices behind a door I knocked and was invited in. The room was totally dark but hands guided me to a place where I could sit. They had gathered there, a voice said, because it was an inside room with no windows. Someone said they numbered nine but I could not see anyone. I could hear children but all the voices were calm. The room was stifling hot. They sat in darkness, a voice explained, because the electricity was off and candles would raise the temperature. Someone offered me water. I never saw the people I spent that hour with. When I emerged from the building, dawn was beginning to light the sky. All the cars on the street were sitting on tires flattened by shrapnel and the cars themselves looked like pin cushions. The pungent smell of gas hung heavily in the air from holed canisters of cooking gas. Tree limbs and utility wires covered the street. Overhead, tracers from the Jordanian lines sailed prettily towards the center of the Israeli side of the city.

From a balcony in Musrara on the second night of the war, I could hear a great rumbling sound from beyond the Mount of Olives where the air force was attacking a Jordanian tank column. Fire raged through part of Augusta Victoria on the Mount of Olives and through a Jordanian army barracks at its foot. The flames seemed to form the outline of a great truncated cross burning silently over Jerusalem.

I had snatched only a few hours of sleep during the two days and



Soldiers in Jerusalem converge outside the Jordanian-held Rockefeller Museum, June 1967

by Wednesday morning was exhausted. Passing through Independence Park, I lay down and promptly fell asleep. The Jordanian shelling had stopped but the overhead wail woke me after only a short nap. The sound was traveling from north to south but there was no plane visible. I would later be told that it was a new type of mortar shell being used to support the Jerusalem Brigade as it prepared to move south to conquer the Hebron hills.

With the adrenalin pumping once more, I stopped in at the *Post* where I found Charlie Weiss, the chief copy editor, alone in the newsroom. He said that Israeli troops were reported to have captured the Old City. I suggested we try to get over. We walked to the Mandelbaum Gate crossing point, used by diplomats and pilgrims, hoping to talk our way through the border guards. To our astonishment, the border checkpoint was empty.

We walked into a door on the Israeli side and emerged at the other end into no-man's-land. Crossing through the Jordanian checkpoint opposite, likewise empty, we began walking south towards the Old City. It was eerie to find ourselves in the streets of the Jordanian city but periodic encounters with members of the paratroop brigade were reassuring. Near Damascus Gate was a burned-out Jordanian army vehicle with a helmeted corpse sitting in it upright.

Approaching Lions' Gate, we

passed a smoldering bus and then stepped over the wooden gate itself, which had been felled by paratroop commander Motta Gur's half-track only four hours before when he smashed into the walled city. When we reached the Temple Mount, Weiss continued on to the Western Wall but I decided to linger on the mount.

uniforms for civilian clothing. Several of the prisoners were identified as soldiers by dog-tags or compass straps which they had retained. When one prisoner put his hands down, a paratrooper barked at him to get them back up and motioned with his Uzi. A swarthy sergeant-major com-

manding the guard detail cautioned his men. "They're prisoners but they're also human beings." The Arabs seemed stunned by the display of might casually bristling about them. Most Jordanians had believed that the Jordanian army would be in Tel Aviv within two days. The debacle was as incomprehensible to them as it was humiliating. One of the prisoners slumped against a tree with his eyes closed as if hoping the scene would disappear when he opened them. As a plane roared overhead, tears began to flow through his closed lids and his hands trembled. "They're afraid," a

young soldier watching alongside me said, "but we won't harm them."

The paratroopers were bronzed and unshaven and many wore captured Arab keffiyehs on their heads or around their necks. A group of officers surrounded by the antennae of their radio men watched planes circling beyond the Mount of Olives and daring down above the Jericho road. The compound was filling with supply vehicles, including a mobilized Tnuva milk truck laden with military equipment. Some soldiers climbed into the cabs of the vehicles to sleep. Across the mount a cheer went up from soldiers gathered around an officer who had just finished addressing them.

AT THE northern edge of the mount I came on a dozen soldiers poking through Jordanian army storerooms filled with crates of weapons and ammunition. They finally found what they wanted, boxes of soda pop. As they sat drinking on the terrace outside, they fell into easy conversation. "They can have all the rest back," said one when I asked what he expected to happen now, "but not our holy city." Despite the bewildering speed of events, the soldiers had obviously given thought to the political implications of the battle. Some said Israel must keep all or part of the territory captured on other fronts. Only one advocated returning everything, including Jerusalem. In this offhand dis-

ussion on the Temple Mount before the last shots were fired, all the major positions that would occupy the Israeli political scene in the ensuing three decades were outlined.

The sun was already low when I left the emotion-drenched alleys in front of the Western Wall and headed out of the Old City through Dung Gate, attaching myself to a platoon of Jerusalem Brigade snipers. The village of Silwan across the valley had not yet been combed and the platoon commander ordered his men to keep their eyes on its windows.

The stone houses, all of them flying white flags, seemed to meld into the hillside in the incredibly golden light. Beyond was the great purple cleft of the Jordan Valley. As we climbed the rear slope of Mount Zion we passed groups of soldiers crowded around transistor radios. Cheers marked announcements of the war's progress. Soldiers of the Southern Command were already at the Suez Canal and armored unit had reached the Jordan River at Jericho. One company sat in a circle singing Hassidic songs. At the top of the hill the Israeli side of the city came into view. It was almost dark now and for the first time since the war began the lights were on in Jerusalem.

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Jerusalem Post staff writer Abraham Rabinovich is author of *The Battle for Jerusalem* (Jewish Publication Society).

The war had its own rhythm. The noise of explosions and gunfire was deafening. But often the city was still enough to hear the distant barking of a dog. Jerusalem was never as silent as it was during those battle lulls.

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Soldier and civilian at the Western Wall, June 1967

(R.M. Kneeller)

A miraculous victory?

'Miraculous' is an adjective that, over the last 30 years, has been used often in speaking or writing of Israel's victory in the Six Day War.

For some, miraculous is meant only figuratively, in the sense that the war was an unexpected, awesome and astounding victory. For others, miraculous is meant quite literally — that the victory was a miracle of biblical proportions, an example of God's active, visible intervention in history.

Miracles are very much in the eye of the beholder. One man's miracle is another man's act of nature.

Among religious Israelis, there seems to be a consensus that the Six Day War was not just a stunning military victory by a superior army, but that some other factor or force was involved. No better illustration of this point of view is the decision after the war by then-chief rabbi Isser Yehuda Unterman to rule that Hallel, special psalms of praise, should be recited on Jerusalem Day, and that these psalms should be preceded by the recitation of a blessing.

Although Hallel, with the blessing, is widely recited on Jerusalem Day in the national religious camp, among haredim — both Ashkenazi and Sephardi — these psalms are not recited to mark Jerusalem Day. This does not mean that those particular communities do not see any religious significance in the Six Day War, or that they do not wrap a religious interpretation around it, but rather that their interpretations vary.

While there is agreement among many religious Jews that the war was a miracle, there is disagreement over the nature of the miracle. Was the miracle the salvation of Israel at a time when there were real fears that another holocaust was lurking at the door? Or was the miracle the conquest of those areas — eastern Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria — that hold so much emotive power for so many?

The feeling in the haredi world, except for Habad on one hand and Satmar Hassidim on the other, is that the Six Day War was indeed a miracle, but that the miracle was God's salvation of the Jewish people, not the gaining possession of Jerusalem's Old City, Hebron or Nablus. In this world view, the victory that God gave the IDF was a contemporary manifestation of the verse in the Pessah Haggada that reads: "In every generation they rise against us and seek our destruction. But the Holy One, blessed be He, saves us from their hands."

"I WAS a child of 12 at the time,"

Many religious Jews regard the Six Day War as a miracle, but they disagree on the nature of that miracle, Herb Keinon writes

said Yisrael Eichler, a Belz hasid, the editor of its weekly newspaper *Hamahaneh Hahare-di*, and a frequent panelist on Israel Television's *Popolitica*, "but I remember a feeling that we were witnessing clear miracles. The war was indeed a miracle. It was a miracle that had nothing to do with nationalism or messianism. It was a miracle in the same way that there are numerous examples throughout history of Jews being saved from pogroms."

Eichler said that there was nothing miraculous in the return to Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem and Shiloh, and that there is no spiritual significance to the return to those areas.

According to Eichler, the Belzer Rebbe, departing from mainstream haredi opinion, has even said that if retaining sov-

eignty over the Western Wall is tied up with the loss of life, it is preferable to forfeit that sovereignty.

Miracles are very much in the eye of the beholder. One man's miracle is another man's act of nature.

The Satmar hassidism, Eichler said, don't see the victory as a miracle at all, rather as the work

of satanic powers. Anything carried out by the impure Zionist state cannot, by nature, be holy. Soon after the war, then Satmar rebbe, Yoel Teitelbaum, said that conquest of the territories would necessarily cause the loss of much more life.

He also wrote a book reiterating his belief that the Holocaust was God's answer to Zionism, and that the Six Day War should not be seen in any way as a sign of God's approval of the Zionist enterprise.

On the other side of the haredi spectrum stands Habad, which has infused the war, and the return to the territories, with much religious meaning.

Not only was the war a miracle, said Habad spokesman Menachem Brodt, but it was a miracle that Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson

foresaw. "A few weeks before the war the rebbe spoke, and said that there would be great victory," Brodt said.

"This was a time when there was great concern about the possibility of physical destruction, when there was morbid humor to the effect that the last person leaving the airport should turn off the lights. Many yeshiva students from abroad were leaving, and the rebbe said they should remain in the county and pray, that a great victory was in the offing."

See MIRACLE, Page 18

View from the Nile

Abraham Rabinovich meets the man who served as Egyptian President Gamel Abdel Nasser's spokesman during the Six Day War.

Egyptian leader Gamel Abdel Nasser had already started to pull back from the brink when the Six Day War hit him, says the man who served as Nasser's official spokesman.

"Nasser definitely miscalculated the crisis that led to the war," says retired ambassador Tahseen Basheer, "but he had started to de-escalate. He told the UN and the US and others that he would not fire the first shot. If he had started the war, instead of telling his commanders not to make the first strike, our military defeat would not have been as big and our suffering would have been much less."

Basheer, who had also served as president Anwar Sadat's spokesman and later as Egypt's ambassador to the Arab League, was in Jerusalem this week to participate in a conference at Hebrew University marking the 30th anniversary of the war, one of several such conferences being held here. Now a scholar at the National Center for Middle East Studies in Cairo, he spent some of his time in Jerusalem studying Israeli documents relating to the war.

"I've learned some very interesting things," he said. "The ministers of the National Religious Party at the time were against going to war. So was Ben-Gurion. He took [chief of staff Yitzhak] Rabin to pieces for sending the air force over Damascus before the war. He said it was an insult to the Arabs."

Both Nasser and Sadat were "pharaohs" with national visions, said Basheer, but Sadat was able to make his trip to Jerusalem because he was unencumbered by the defeat of 1967 and buoyed by 1973 war.

"If he had lost in 1973 he would have been hung in [Cairo's] Tahrir Square. Literally. He was a man of great daring and he believed his fate was in God's hand. That's why he never wore an armored vest. If he had, it might have saved him." Sadat was assassinated while viewing a military parade in October 1981.

At the time of Sadat's trip, Basheer was serving as Egyptian representative to the Arab League. Sadat's wife, Jehan, invited Basheer, an old family friend, to discuss the visit.

"I told her I supported him and the Egyptian people supported him. But I feared the bullet. You

can never have 100 percent support and there is no defense against the bullet."

The amiable Egyptian diplomat has been engaged in dialogue with Jews since long before the peace process.

A leader of the Arab students' union in the US in the 1950s, he was co-opted onto the staff of the Egyptian mission to the UN. Living in New York, he became part of the heavily Jewish, Upper West Side cultural scene, and enjoyed the give and take of political debate with Zionists. On one occasion, he said, he arranged meetings in New York with Jewish leaders for a senior Syrian minister who wanted to explore the possibilities of peace.

Basheer himself had an hour-long meeting with philosopher Martin Buber in New York in 1957.

"I was young and brash, he was old and picked his words very wisely. It was a painful meeting. I said 'You've taken the land because you are stronger and have Western support. The Palestinians lost because they were weaker. Now you talk of morality but this is the morality of power. Either offer a bigger cake so as to make your presence beneficial to the other side and in time the pain will be seen as a passing phase, or give them some kind of compensation. But you do neither.'"

"He didn't dodge issues. I liked his empathy with the Palestinians. He was pained by the problem and had no solution. At the end he said 'This was a difficult meeting and I'm going to give you a present. I'm going to tell you a hassidic story.'"

The story was about a young man going to a rabbi and asking how to rid the world of evil so as to permit good to enter.

The rabbi's response was to just begin doing good in anticipation that evil would then subside by itself.

"I believe that a historic compromise is within our grasp but it is not with us yet," said Basheer. "I believe we're in for a difficult two years. By that time we should see whether [Labor leader Ehud] Barak will be able to deliver."

"No side is considering war as an option. But there can be miscalculations. My greatest fear is apathy among young Israelis and despair among young Palestinians. Peace does not come from being vanquished."

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Mothers at war

A newly formed protest group — mothers of soldiers in Lebanon — takes to the streets today to mark 15 years since the start of the Lebanon War, Dan Izenberg reports

A group of women, most of whom had never heard of each other a few weeks ago, will set up tables at 30 sites all over the country today and ask passersby to sign a petition calling on the government "to find a solution to the Lebanese problem without delay."

Just two weeks ago, the latest protest movement, called "A Voice Calling for Peace," consisted of a handful of women in Upper Galilee, far from the corridors of power and influence. But television coverage of a protest by the women at the Mahanayim intersection tapped an enormous reservoir of barely contained anxiety shared by the parents of hundreds, if not thousands, of soldiers serving in the security zone in south Lebanon.

"We received a flood of phone calls," said Kibbutz Mahanayim member Miri Sela, who initiated the grass-roots movement four months ago, together with the mothers of three of her son's schoolmates — Maronit Nahmias and Yaffa Arbel of Kibbutz Gadot, and Rahel Ben-Dror from Rosh Pina.

All the boys are currently serving in Lebanon. Their mothers believe the government is trapped in old conceptions and must try much harder until it finds a solution which will enable their sons to come home, and soon. What makes the protest movement special is that it draws on a particularly sensitive emotional string — a mother's love and concern for her child.

It is a sentiment which even the toughest of men find difficult to oppose, at least in words. But the movement has angered many women, including Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal, who also has a son in Lebanon.

"They want to claim a monopoly on motherhood," said Blumenthal. "They are creating a situation which makes it look as though women who do not join the movement don't care about their sons." By stressing that they

were mothers, the organizers were also unfairly implying that the soldiers' fathers care less about their children, she added.

Blumenthal charged that the organization was, in fact, a left-wing political movement aimed at unseating the government disguised as a group of apolitical women fueled by motherly love. "I ask myself why they didn't demonstrate two years ago or three years ago, and whether there may not be a political reason behind that fact," she said.

There is some basis to her suspicions. Sela was a member of Women in Black until the Labor Party victory in 1992. However, she said she stopped demonstrating not because her side was in power, but because the government of Yitzhak Rabin was obviously doing something about peace.

"They did two enormous things," said Sela. "They made peace with Jordan and began a peace process with the Palestinians. So why didn't we protest then? Because we saw they were doing things. And when it came to Lebanon, Rabin said: I understand the mothers, but we are working on it. The boys are on their way home. It's not like today where all we hear is: there's no choice, we must stay put. We kept quiet for a year. But how long can a mother keep quiet when she sees her son in danger every day?"

Sela began her public activity in February, after the helicopter crash at She'ar Yashuv in which 73 soldiers were killed, by writing a letter to call for a withdrawal from southern Lebanon to the Likud and Labor MKs who gathered at Kochav Ya'ir.

"The crash opened my eyes," she explained. "We came to realize that most of the soldiers killed in the North die because of logistics. It is primarily a war of logistics — how to move troops and how to supply them with food and ammunition. When we moved them in trucks, the Hizbullah blew them up with sui-



"The Lebanon trap: Is there really no choice?" Roadside protest by members of 'A Voice Calling for Peace.'

(Emanuel Han/ Yedioth Aharonot)

cide bombers. We gave the trucks armor but that didn't help. We started using helicopters and look what happened. Why not take all the resources needed for logistics and invest them in strengthening the border defenses — reinforcing the fence, building more watch towers, etc."

SELA DENIES that the movement's supporters all come from the Left. One indication of the fact that opposition to the security-zone strategy straddles party lines is the fact that not everyone agrees about the movement's ultimate aims.

Sela, for example, favors a unilateral withdrawal if no agreement is reached. But Shoshana Saban, a recently recruited Jerusalem activist, is opposed to a "unilateral, hasty withdrawal from Lebanon."

Saban also comes from the right side of the political spectrum, though her views have changed over the years. "What impressed me about the movement and gave me the impetus to join is the fact that these women live in the North and the aim of the Lebanon War is to protect the residents of the North," she said. "If they

think it's time for the government to think differently and that the overall aim should be to get out of Lebanon, I'm all for it. Even though she has no preten-

"The day my firstborn went up to Lebanon was the day I had to start going to a hair dresser to dye my hair. All of a sudden, I became an old woman."

sions to be a political leader or a military expert, Saban is absolutely certain there is another way — even when Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai says there is not.

Earlier this week, Mordechai called on the mothers to strengthen the resolve of their children serving in Lebanon. "I promise the mothers that the moment we find a partner with whom we can reach agreement or any element which can assume responsibility

for establishing a serious force in south Lebanon, we will quickly reach an agreement," he told Channel 1 television. "Today, in my opinion, there is no such element."

"[In the meantime], any change in the current situation means bringing terrorism closer to Israeli territory and bringing weapons closer to the northern border and a substantial threat to large portions of the population of northern Israel." Saban is not convinced.

"Let them try," she insisted. "Simply sit and think. We have been in the muck of Lebanon for 15 years. It doesn't get better. We continue to suffer casualties. That means there has been no change in the conception. Nothing has changed. Let them sit and think. I still believe that maybe, despite everything, it's still possible."

Saban, thin, wiry and articulate, has the appearance of a strong woman. She is the administrator of the Hadassah Hospital neighborhood branch in Kiryat Hayovel.

But, despite her vitality, she is burdened with fears. Her day begins by listening to the six o'clock news, to make sure the night in Lebanon passed without incident. "What moved me so much about the mothers is that they are sick and tired of the situation," she said.

"It's hard for us as mothers to live from one ambush to another, or from the time our sons go up to

Lebanon to when they come down, again. When my son goes up, it is terrible. Lebanon is a cancer in the souls of all the parents." Smadar Bat-Adam also knows

"They are creating a situation which makes it look as though women who do not join the movement don't care about their sons."

—Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal

what it is like to send children to Lebanon. She has two paratrooper sons, one still serving in the regular army.

But her conclusions are not the same as Saban's or as Sela's and she is not a member of the group. Several years ago, when her older son was serving in the territories during the intifada, she wrote him a now-famous letter, entitled, "I want you back alive," in which she reminded him of the adage: "If someone comes to kill you,

kill him first." "I feel these things, I live with these fears," she said. "The day my firstborn went up to Lebanon was the day I had to start going to a hairdresser to dye my hair. All of a sudden, I became an old woman. And you think about death all the time."

Despite this, however, one must never forget the reality that Israel is up against, she continued. "The Arabs are not like us. They want to destroy Israel. Therefore, Israel must remain strong."

"If the fear of death for my boys gets to be too strong for me, I'll get up and go to New Zealand, and take my children with me," she said. But so long as I'm here, and my children are fated to be soldiers, I cannot pursue naïve solutions that can, further down the road, expose them to even greater dangers."

According to Bat-Adam, the facts on the ground have convinced her that the Syrians and Lebanese do not want to make peace and that there is no choice but to stay put in the security zone.

"We are only one year after the government of Rabin and Peres and they did not succeed in getting out of Lebanon. Whoever believes in them ought to understand that it is impossible [to withdraw]. I do not believe what the [current] government says out of stupidity. I follow developments myself. And to have some faith in the leadership is not a bad thing."

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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

War and bread have frequently been intertwined, as one can learn from the unsettling similarity between the Hebrew words milhama and lehem.

Fatal attraction

unskilled job-seekers. And yet land, minerals and cheap labor were the spoils the Six Day War gave an Israel drunk with victory.

In post-'67 Israel, a thickly bespectacled, Polish-born, Yiddish-speaking, veteran bureaucrat like Pinhas Sapir suffered from a serious image problem when faced with the eye-patched, Deganya-born, celebrated war hero Dayan.

satisfaction of cheap, semi-regulated labor on the one hand, and a minimal but steady source of income on the other.

experiences as being operated on by an Arab surgeon, asking for a loan from an Arab banker, or being defended in court by an Arab lawyer.

Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO RISKIN

Countdown to redemption

that this spiritual liberation became complete. Thus, the time between Pessah and Shavuot is the time between redemption promised and redemption realized.

PESSAH IS when God promised to marry us; and Shavuot is the marriage itself. The seven weeks in between, teach the mystical sages, are like the seven days a bride-to-be counts in preparation for her wedding, during which she purifies herself in order for the marriage to be properly consummated.

Hence, these days between the hope of redemption and the achievement of redemption are crucial days of preparation. This may well be reflected in the two versions of the count - la-omer, and ba'omer. The prefix la - meaning toward - emphasizes anticipation; the prefix ba (which means within) emphasizes preparation. There can be no achievement of a goal without proper preparation. This preparation requires 'shuva - a return to the Land of Israel and to the Torah of Israel.

In a sense, the preparation is more significant than the realization - for without it, redemption will remain an elusive dream. Perhaps this is why the weeks between Pessah and Shavuot have become a time of mourning - no weddings and no haircuts, at the very least. During this period, 24,000 students of R. Akiva died because they did not show proper respect for each other (Levamos 62b). Apparently they understood the importance of Israel, but were missing the main message of Torah, which is brotherly love.

Then, 1,000 years later, entire Jewish communities were destroyed by the Crusaders - Christians on their way to "liberate" the Land of Israel from the Saracens, while the Jews were content to remain in exile. Apparently, those Jews understood the importance of Torah, but were remiss in their appreciation of the Land.

Our mourning during this period is not only for the lives lost, but also for the tragedy of redemption unachieved.

Weeks of joyous anticipation have become weeks of tragic mourning because we lost sight of the spiritual and physical ideals so necessary for redemption.

But in the past five decades, two new and joyous festivals have emerged between Pessah and Shavuot: Independence Day and Jerusalem Day.

And what's most uncanny about these days is that they seem to be reclaiming a long-lost Jewish legacy, a willingness to accept the challenge and assume the responsibility of realizing the dream.

"Weeks" is a name that speaks of the road which must be traveled, the religious development which is the prerequisite for the accomplishment of our goal.

The real test lies in our willingness and ability to count and prepare for the God of Redemption. If our preparation is sufficient, our goal will certainly be achieved.

Shabbat Shalom and Hag Sameah

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

Near the famous Fisherman's Wharf/Pier 39 in San Francisco, we were waiting for the No. 32 bus that would take us to the Caltrain station for the ride to our base in Cupertino. A man and two women sat there chatting. From his attire and accent, he seemed to be a Texas rancher.

'Hierusalem, my happie home'

I said we indeed liked it, "confessed" that my wife and I had both been born and raised in the US, and gave them a capsule of Jewish history, including that my parents had come to the US from Jerusalem, and that in 1957 we had gone to Israel with our children to live.

didn't know came up to me, gripped my right hand, shook it warmly, and greeted me enthusiastically: "Hello, my friend. How are you? How is your family? What have you been up to?"

Jerusalem. The mufti at the time, who had been appointed by Samuel, was Amin al-Husseini, who had already been tried, convicted and sentenced for his role in the 1920 pogrom in Jerusalem, and then pardoned by Samuel.

Dei/Mother Jerusalem Holy City of God" in his Meditations (chapter 25).

IN TALMUDIC times, Jerusalemites were already notorious possessors of a special degree of hutza (Shabbat 62b). Here is a latter-day example.

MANDATORY PALESTINE'S first high commissioner was Sir Herbert Louis Samuel. Field Marshal Herbert Onslow Plumer succeeded him in 1925. Plumer's tenure was marked by calm, radically unlike Samuel's tenure, during which the Arabs staged their 1920 and 1921 anti-Jewish pogroms, and that of Plumer's successor, Sir John Herbert Chancelor, when they staged their 1929 pogrom.

Plumer "screwed his monocle into his eye, looked closely at Hussein, and said to the interpreter: "Tell him that he is not responsible for anything in this country. I am responsible."

The poem opens with: Hierusalem, my happie home. When shall I come to thee? When shall my sorrows have an end. Thy joys when shall I see? The closing stanza reads: Hierusalem, my happie home. Would God I were in thee! Would God my woes were at an end.

RABBI WILLIAM Eidelberg of New York was looking for an address in the Komemiyut (Talbieh) section of Jerusalem. He asked a passing woman to direct him to "Rehov Berlin Street."

AN ANONYMOUS 16th-century English hymnist composed a 26-stanza poem based on St. Augustine's reference to "Mater Hierusalem Civitas Sancta

Jerusalem the Golden, with milk and honey blest! Beneath thy contemplation, sink heart and voice opprest. I know not, Oh, I know not, what joys await us there; What radiancy of glory, What bliss beyond compare.

America! America! God shed His grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shiny sea!...

The woman replied: "Sir, this is not Germany. The street is called Rehov Harav (Rabbi) Berlin!" (after Rabbi Haim Berlin, who headed the Etz Haim Yeshiva in Jerusalem till he died in 1913).

AT THE Western Wall, a man I

America! America! God mend thy evil'ry flaw. Confirm thy soul in self-control. Thy liberty in law!

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FOOTSTEPS

Continued from Page 7

"There will be a leadership team in which all shades of party thought will be incorporated. As far as I am concerned," continues Ben-Eliezer, "my record speaks for itself. I stood at Barak's side from his first day in the party and contributed massively to his victory. I am not worried about my position." The translation from Labor-speak is that Ben-Eliezer is staking a claim for political reward.

BARAK SPOKE vaguely about setting up a compact leadership crew at his side. But that may prove as complicated as trying to form a coalition. To meet the demands of all the "non-factions," the trim team could swell to an oversized executive with some four dozen members. For the same reason, any idea of a shadow cabinet is out of the question: It would trigger infighting over the nonexistent portfolios and leave too many bruised egos.

"Barak can't afford any ruffled feathers," says Sheves. "Barak will have to pay through the nose for internal party peace. He is surrounded by people who did not follow him because of his ideology."

"Uzi Baram's views in fact are much more dovish and quite different from Barak's. So are Haggai Merom's and David Liba'i's. But we have an ideology of power here," says Sheves. "Barak convinced them that he alone can deliver the goods. They and Ben-Eliezer, Avraham Shohat, and Ori Orr are all crowding around Barak like bees around honey."

But these power struggles may



Against the Wall: Barak knows he'll have to prove he's not antireligious in order to lead 'the true national camp.' (Gideon Markovitz)

be "the least of Barak's worries," says Burg. "If Barak wants to return to power, he will have to set out on a journey of penitence. He will have to go from one sector of the popula-

tion to another and beg forgiveness for the wrongs Labor has done or is perceived to have done.

"There are many segments of the population who feel aggrieved,

who feel that Labor insulted and belittled them," says Burg. "Barak will have to go to the synagogues, the development towns and the working-class neighborhoods, and not just

appear as a patronizing elitist visitor who honors them with his presence."

To win back Sephardi support, Barak is expected to speedily elevate Ben-Ami's status as Labor's answer to the Likud and Shas.

But Labor MK Eli Ben-Menahem warns against making "an artificial figurehead out of Ben-Ami. He was born in Morocco and his name once was Ben-Abu but this history professor is not a man of the common folk. He is the darling of Ashkenazi yuppies rather than a representative of the blue-collar Sephardim."

Ben-Menahem points to "the primary returns in Tel Aviv's Kfar Shalem slum, where 137 votes went to Barak and only 20 to Ben-Ami. In the nearby Hatikva neighborhood, Barak got 80 votes to Ben-Ami's six. But in wealthy Kikar Hamedina, Barak came away with 138 votes, while Ben-Ami garnered 66."

Ramon agrees that "the situation for Labor today is far from simple."

"At this point it must be admitted that Netanyahu's coalition sticks together. The Russian immigrants may be the least stable and predictable element. There is almost no point for us to waste any time in the Ashkenazi religious sector," says Ramon.

"It's lost to us and winning another fraction of a percentage point in Bnei Brak isn't worth much. Shas was more open, but, since the Bar-On Affair, it began to regard Netanyahu as a fellow victim of the wicked Labor elite, which manipulates the prosecution and police."

"It's not impossible to bring Netanyahu down, but it's not easy," Ramon says. "In the end - as was the case in 1992 - it might not be that we will win, but that the Right will self-destruct."

GRAPEVINE

Cairo's just desserts

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Let them eat cake" took on a whole new meaning this week at the opening of the Cairo Geniza exhibition. Referring to a Geniza document in which an anonymous writer praised the hospitality of Maimonides, who served his guests lemon cakes, Israel Museum director James Snyder, in the spirit of the occasion, presented President Ezer Weizman with a whole basketful of lemon cakes. Weizman, who was about to board a hovering helicopter to take him to a meeting with the 1967 IDF General Staff, commented that if he took the lemon cakes with him "they'll think I'm completely balmy."

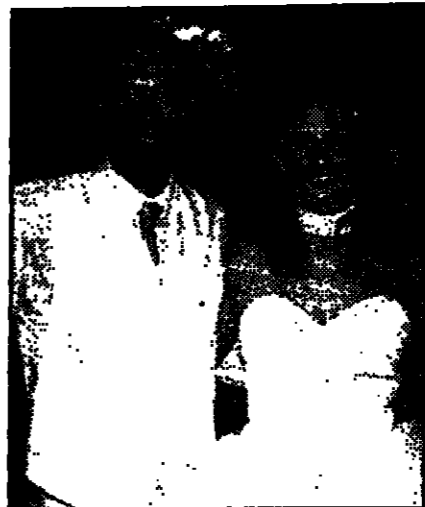
HE'S not Jewish, he has few Jewish friends, and until this week he'd never been to Israel. Yet for all that, Norwegian parliamentarian Jan Simenson, one of the recipients of the Guardian of Jerusalem award, is a great admirer of Israel and the Jewish people and a leading advocate for the transfer of the Norwegian embassy to Jerusalem. At a dinner for the honorees at the King David Hotel, Simenson noted that no

one of the places in which he romped ahead of him was Arad, where Barak's campaign leader, Avraham Shohat, was mayor before entering into national politics.

MODEL parents? You can bank on it. Yael Abecassis and Lior Miller, who met and flashed on the set of the

Castro commercial which was the first-ever commercial shown on Channel 2, this week became the proud parents of a bouncing baby boy. The infant was born at Jerusalem's Misgav Ladach hospital where his mother has been inundated by gifts and good wishes from dotting fans.

ALTHOUGH Yossi Beilin trailed behind Ehud Barak in most of the areas in which the Labor primaries



Betar Jerusalem's Shmufik Levy and bride Anat Ne'eman (Sivan Farag)

people suffered from injustice as often as the Jews; no other country in the world "has received as much unjustified criticism as Israel."

Quoting his own country's literary genius, Henrik Ibsen, Simenson said: "The strongest is the one who stands alone." Nonetheless, he added, Israel has friends too. When it became known that he was going to Israel, many Christians called him to ask him to convey their greetings to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and to assure him that he has many friends in Norway. Netanyahu should not listen to the Norwegian minister of foreign affairs and the Norwegian press, advised Simenson. "He must continue to lead his kind of politics so that he can save Israel."

The Israelis present were profoundly moved by Simenson's address, but none more so than former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, who rushed over to embrace him and exclaimed to all and sundry that it was the best pro-Israel speech (from a non-Jew) that he had ever heard.

PROBLEMS which Betar Jerusalem soccer players are having with the income-tax authorities were put on the back burner as some 1,000 relatives, players and

WHILE Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy is girding his loins to uphold Sabbath observance in the El Al transition to privatization, Metuna, the organization for road safety, will on Sunday mount a demonstration outside his Jerusalem office. In Judaism, says Zelda Harris, one of the Metuna founders, the saving of life transcends all else. The Anashim B'Adom faction of Metuna, which comprises members who have lost loved ones in traffic accidents, are demanding that Levy put road safety at the top of his list of priorities.

They want him to establish policies and clear guidelines which will effectively reduce carnage on the roads.

VARIETY in Israel is obviously doing something right. President and International Ambassador Orr Slonim has been notified by the board of Variety International that the Israel branch has been awarded the Variety Media Prize for 1996 in recognition of having received more coverage last year than any other branch of Variety worldwide. Considering the many pies in which Slonim has a finger, that's not at all surprising.

EVEN small sins can't be kept under wraps. Afraid of being caught shopping for junk food, super-model Cindy Crawford asked someone else to take her purchases to the check-out counter and said that she would settle the bill outside. Needless to say, her departure from a wholesome diet didn't remain secret for very long.

LOOKING much younger than her 56 years, Raquel Welch this week stepped into the female lead of the Broadway production of Victor Victoria.

SHULIK



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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

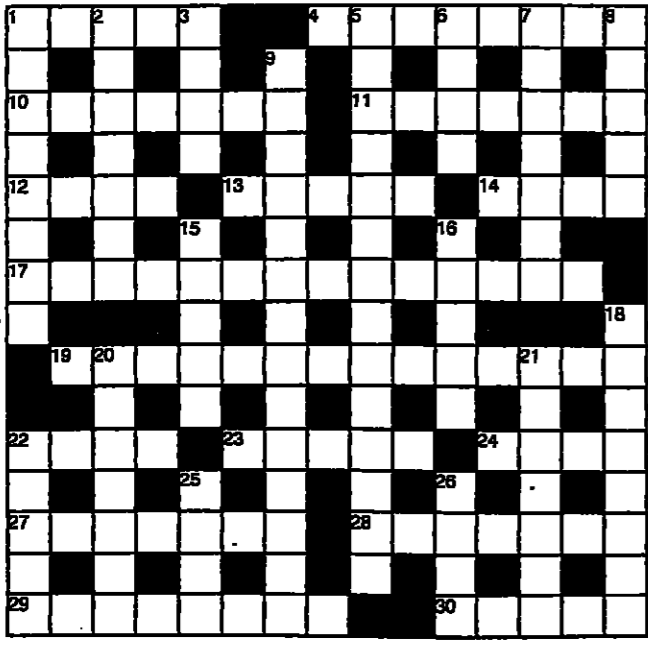
- ACROSS**
- 1 Limits a medic with sex appeal (5)
 - 4 Over-punctilious man is a problem (8)
 - 10 Attend to dress (4,3)
 - 11 Figure knight succeeded a month earlier (7)
 - 12 Peruse literature about Christian times (4)
 - 13 Swedish star leaving the dress circle (5)
 - 14 Bob needs a riding whip (4)
 - 17 Top-level army conference open to the public (7,7)
 - 19 Patronize sluggards to make good the deficiency (4,2,3,5)
 - 22 Pity the wife of Boaz (4)
 - 23 A key ward (5)
 - 24 Desist from bringing back utensils (4)

- 27 Cry from a native American in school (7)
- 28 Arranged the loan in order to get alcohol (7)
- 29 Enraged by warmth in the outhouse (8)
- 30 Space-traveller finds me in bed (5)

- 6 Mention in dispatches for instance (4)
- 7 Shackle produced by Goneril (3-4)
- 8 Make a dress quickly before the big day (3,2)
- 9 If I'm constantly euphoric, I'm done for (3,2,4,2)
- 15 Fawn has to move stealthily (5)
- 16 Some of the pasta shapes stocked by store (5)
- 18 Chaplain who is upwardly mobile (3,5)
- 20 She was worshipped by a king in the country (7)
- 21 An acting award given to many? Quite the opposite (7)
- 22 Stratagems to employ in the Royal Society (5)
- 25 Bobby's route is best (4)
- 26 Elegance is apparent in church icons (4)

DOWN

- 1 Trusted friend needs to change self-image (5,3)
- 2 Lawyers obtain agreement (7)
- 3 Blast toing and froing! (4)
- 5 Mr Fixit disturbs an owl (14)



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Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Forever, 5 Amber, 8 Rabbit, 9 Rookery, 10 Memoranda, 12 Ell, 13 Absent, 14 Sooty, 17 Ash, 18 Billiards, 20 Appena, 21 Ochre, 23 Annex, 24 Theatre.
DOWN: 1 Forum, 2 Bob, 3 Veteran, 4 Racing, 5 Aroma, 6 Beekeeper, 7 Royalty, 11 Mishapen, 13 Alabama, 15 Nolsoma, 16 Eldest, 18 Beaz, 19 Sieve, 22 Eat.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Loll (6)
 - 4 Dessert (5)
 - 8 Aromatic herb (5)
 - 9 In brisk tempo (7)
 - 10 Expanded (7)
 - 11 Malay boat (4)
 - 12 Affirmative term (3)
 - 14 Soon (4)
 - 15 Pakistani language (4)
 - 18 The self (3)
 - 21 Split (4)
 - 23 Unexpected hazard (7)
 - 25 Upstart (7)
 - 26 Wants (5)
 - 27 Dark wood (5)
 - 28 Sickle (6)

- DOWN**
- 1 Lustful urge (6)
 - 2 Greek letter (7)
 - 3 Setting agent (8)
 - 4 Old sailor (4)
 - 5 Avid (5)
 - 6 Upper trunk (6)
 - 7 Confectionery (US) (5)
 - 13 Leading note (8)
 - 16 Best beloved (7)
 - 17 Threefold (6)
 - 19 Narcotic drug (5)
 - 20 Parisian palace (6)
 - 22 Do without (5)
 - 24 Raise a tax (4)

L'expression personnelle



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A VERY DIFFERENT TWO DAYS ON THE GOLAN

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. We'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

We'll visit the museum at Kibbutz Tel Katzir, Mitzpe Nukeib, the Byzantine church of Kursi, Mount Bental, Kibbutz Afik, Emek Habacha. We'll pick blueberries to our heart's content, look at the reforested Hula, view Nebi Yosha, Tel Kadash, Ha'Eilat, the famous Bnot Ya'acov bridge, Khan Yarda, Kfar Hanasani and the wineries of Kibbutz Amiad. A truly magnificent tour. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the wolves of the Golan.

The date: Sunday-Monday, July 13-14.

The guide: Israel Shalem.

The price: NIS 595. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, lunch and dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch-box on the second.

Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible, by prior arrangement.

Reservations and further information:

SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074
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Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

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MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES Table with columns for Last and Change.

Table with 3 columns: Last, Change, Last. Lists various stock indices and their values.

TASE ROUNDUP Stocks surge higher Mishtanim 284.92 ▲ 0.92% Maof 292.4 ▲ 1.00%

By ROBERT DANIEL and JESSICA STEINBERG

issues advanced 0.92% to 284.92. For the week, the indexes rose 3.4% and 3.8%, respectively. Ira Flomowitz, a trader at Israel Brokerage and Investment, said the market reflected investor optimism about the new issues on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Key Representative Rates US DollarNIS 3.411 -0.08% SterlingNIS 5.582 +0.10% MarkNIS 1.9748 +0.17%

Mideast donors meet amid fund-wasting scandal

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Countries financing development projects in Palestinian-ruled areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip held an annual meeting yesterday amid a row over alleged squandering of Palestinian public funds.

Sears to pay states \$40m. in penalties

BOSTON (Reuters) - Sears, Roebuck & Co. agreed yesterday to pay \$40 million in penalties to US states, in addition to about \$125 million to consumers whose credit card payments were wrongly handled.

US public health groups worry about tobacco deal

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Prominent anti-smoking advocates yesterday voiced strong doubts about any negotiated settlement between US states and the tobacco industry that give cigarette makers immunity from future lawsuits.

Blair warns European Left: Modernize or die

MALMO, Sweden, (Reuters) - British Prime Minister Tony Blair will issue a blunt warning on Friday to Europe's center-left parties - modernize or die.

French lead European equity markets higher

LONDON (Reuters) - French shares led European equities higher to a buoyant close yesterday, the Paris bourse climbing more than two percent as investors reacted with relief at the makeup of the new left-wing government.

Dow rises modestly

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks rose modestly yesterday as technology shares regained some footing and new signs emerged that the economic pace may be easing enough to avert an inflationary spurt.

PAC MED INVESTMENTS Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873.



World Market Roundup

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Wall Street Report

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PAC MED INVESTMENTS Due to technical difficulties, we are unable to provide international stock data.

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Qatar economic summit will proceed

By HILLEL KUTLER

WASHINGTON - Despite pressure from Syria to cancel or postpone the region's major economic summit, the event will proceed as planned, American and Arab officials stated here.

The Middle East-North Africa economic conference is scheduled for November 16-18 in Doha, Qatar. The emirate has already spent \$40 million for construction of a conference center, for vehicle leasing, and for four ships that will serve as floating hotels to accommodate the several thousand business and governmental delegates expected to attend, the officials said.

US sources revealed that Cairo will likely host an intra-Arab summit in the fall, although Qatar's Foreign Minister Hamad bin-Jassim bin-Jabr al-Thani reportedly told a visiting American government delegation two weeks ago that it is not meant to counter the Doha conference.

"I'm reassured from what I heard out there. People have some reservations because of the political environment, because of what's been happening, but prepa-

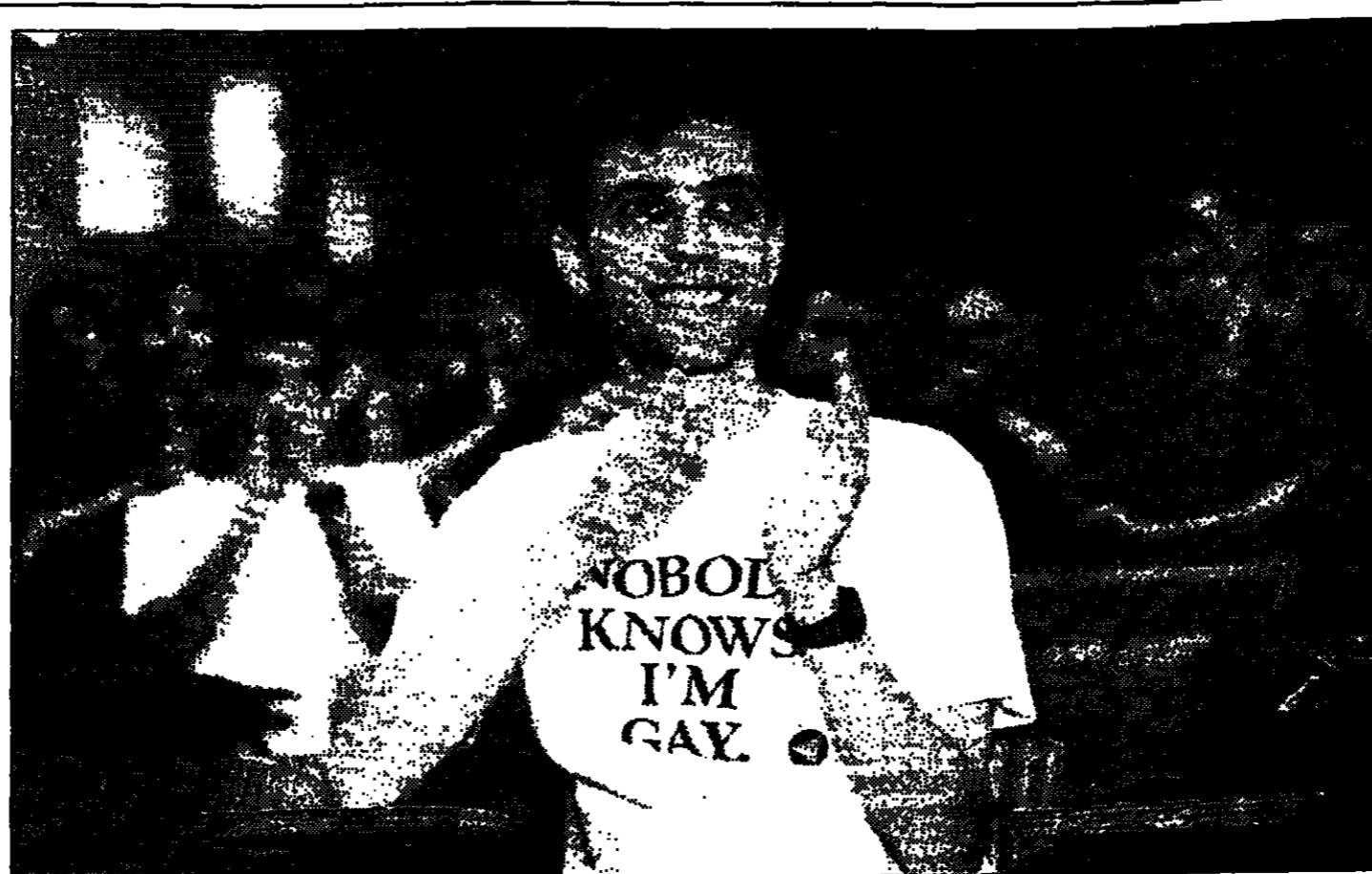
rations [are] going full-steam ahead," a Commerce Department official said.

A senior Persian Gulf diplomat said that Syria has been "lobbying" against the Doha conference, but that Qatar is "going ahead with the summit," although it is assuming risks by doing so.

The Israeli-Palestinian stalemate is "making it very hard" for Qatar to proceed because "the perception now is that Israel doesn't want to move ahead," he said.

The summit and developing the region's business potential will be a major focus of the visit here next week of Qatar's new emir, Sheikh Hamad bin-Khalifa al-Thani, who deposed his father. On Monday, he will be in New York to address a Council on Foreign Relations seminar, and he will meet with President Bill Clinton here on Wednesday.

The annual economic summit follows the three previous ones held in Casablanca, Amman, and Cairo. The US and Israel see the event as a crucial vehicle in normalizing relations in the region and stimulating economic development both within the region and with the industrialized world.



Gay and proud in Jerusalem

Students applaud a speaker at yesterday's First National Conference of Gay and Lesbian Students, which took place at the Hebrew University's Mt. Scopus campus. (Brian Hentler)

Chinese generals end visit

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Senior generals from China wind up a five-day visit with the IDF today. During their stay, they were given a thorough review of the IDF's logistics and technology branch.

The officers included Lt.-Gen. Wang Tailan, the deputy chief of staff of logistics of the Chinese army, and five other senior generals, the IDF said.

As guest of OC Logistics and Technology Maj.-Gen. Amiaz Sagis, the delegation also met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Minister of Agriculture Rafael Eitan, and defense officials.

The US has expressed its displeasure at the warming military ties between Israel and China and the visit coincidentally coincided with the biannual strategic talks between Israel and the US.

Since the Chinese army produces all of its own food, the delegation also visited the Volcani Institute and received information on Israel's high-tech farming practices.

Striking psychologists offered 15% raise

By JUDY SIEGEL

After striking for nearly three weeks, public-sector psychologists have been offered a 15 percent wage hike, and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza has called on them to return to work.

But the psychologists turned his proposal down, arguing that the proposed increase is not enough, considering that they're among the best-educated and lowest-paid workers in the public service.

In a meeting with union representatives yesterday, Matza promised to fight for them in their struggle with the Treasury for higher pay and improved working conditions.

"I understand your distress," he said, adding that the way they have been treated has tarnished the image of "this important and dedicated profession."

The message of the strike, however, "has gotten through [to the Treasury], and as a result, a 15% wage increase has been proposed," Matza said.

Last week, Treasury officials said they sympathized with the psychologists, but "could not grant wage hikes until negotiations over a new public sector collective agreement began in October."

Nearly all of the psychologists fill half-time positions in the Health Ministry and Kupat Holim Clalit. Because their salaries are so meager, they try to make ends meet with free-lance jobs elsewhere.

Meanwhile, patients say they're beginning to become anxious and desperate. "We're having group pep talks with social workers, but it certainly isn't the same," said M., a paranoid schizophrenic at the Maon Yerushalayim hostel. "You can't talk about your problems in a group the way you can privately with a psychologist."

M., 53, who became ill in 1986, says his therapist earns NIS 2,200 a month. "I'm all for him and the rest of the psychologists. They do very important work - no less important than doctors, teachers, and social workers, but they earn much less. So even if we have to suffer until their demands are met by the Treasury, we support them."

M. had two weekly sessions with his therapist for five months before the strike. "They really helped me, more than the medications I'm taking."

M. said that the therapist even called him from home during the strike to give him some encouragement.

Russian Sabbatarians allowed to stay as temporary residents

By HAIM SHAPIRO

A group of Russian Sabbatarians, Christians who observe Shabbat and many other Jewish customs but retain a belief in Jesus, lived in Israel for up to seven years before the Interior Ministry realized they are not Jews, a senior ministry official said yesterday.

According to reports yesterday, the Sabbatarians, about 130 in number, are now the sole inhabitants of Yitav, a settlement in the Jordan Valley. Batiya Karmon, head of the ministry's visa department, said that although others were registered as living in Yitav, all the Jewish residents had left and were renting their homes to the Sabbatarians.

Karmon said that her department is now checking the documents of the members of the community, whom she suspects entered Israel by producing

forged birth certificates, documenting them as Jews. She said she had questioned one elderly woman who told her that she had simply asked the Russian authorities for a birth certificate listing her as a Jew.

Most of the Sabbatarians arrived six or seven years ago, although a few had questioned recently as two years ago, she said. In the early 1990s, Karmon said, there had been considerable innocence among Israeli officials, who were enthusiastic about the arrival of so many Jews from the former Soviet Union and who had not previously experienced many non-Jews trying to enter as Jews.

Because the Sabbatarians have lived in Israel for some time, she added, they will not be deported, but their citizenship will be revoked. They will be allowed to stay as temporary residents, she said.

MDA, Palestinian Red Crescent pledge closer cooperation

By JUDY SIEGEL

Despite continuing tensions between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the relationship between Magen David Adom and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society has never been warmer. The presidents of the two organizations met Wednesday and agreed to cooperate on a number of projects and to consult with each other on a regular basis.

MDA president Dr. Shlomi Antebi received an urgent call this week from PRC's president Dr. Fathi Arafat (brother of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat) asking him to meet in Al-Bireh. Antebi immediately agreed.

"The meeting was very successful and creative," he said afterward. "It was agreed that we will consult regularly without taking into consideration the existing political situation."

Arafat, a pediatrician, asked that MDA organize a course for 25 Palestinian ambulance drivers and another on emergency medicine for a similar number of physicians. He also asked for written material used in MDA's courses and help for increasing public awareness in the Palestinian sector on the use of emergency medical services.

The two organizations agreed to cooperate when ambulances are called to treat accident victims on

roads running between Israeli and Palestinian territory.

Arafat accepted Antebi's proposal to equip PRC's ambulances with the same resuscitation equipment found on MDA ambulances, so that lives could be saved when patients are transferred between them.

The two will soon travel together to Oslo at the invitation of Norway's Red Cross, where they will hold joint meetings on cooperation.

Arafat will soon visit the Beit Loewinstein Rehabilitation Hospital in Ra'anana, as well as other MDA facilities in various parts of Israel, to learn first-hand about its operations.

FUNDS

Children's camps and trips for the elderly

By BEVERLEE BLACK

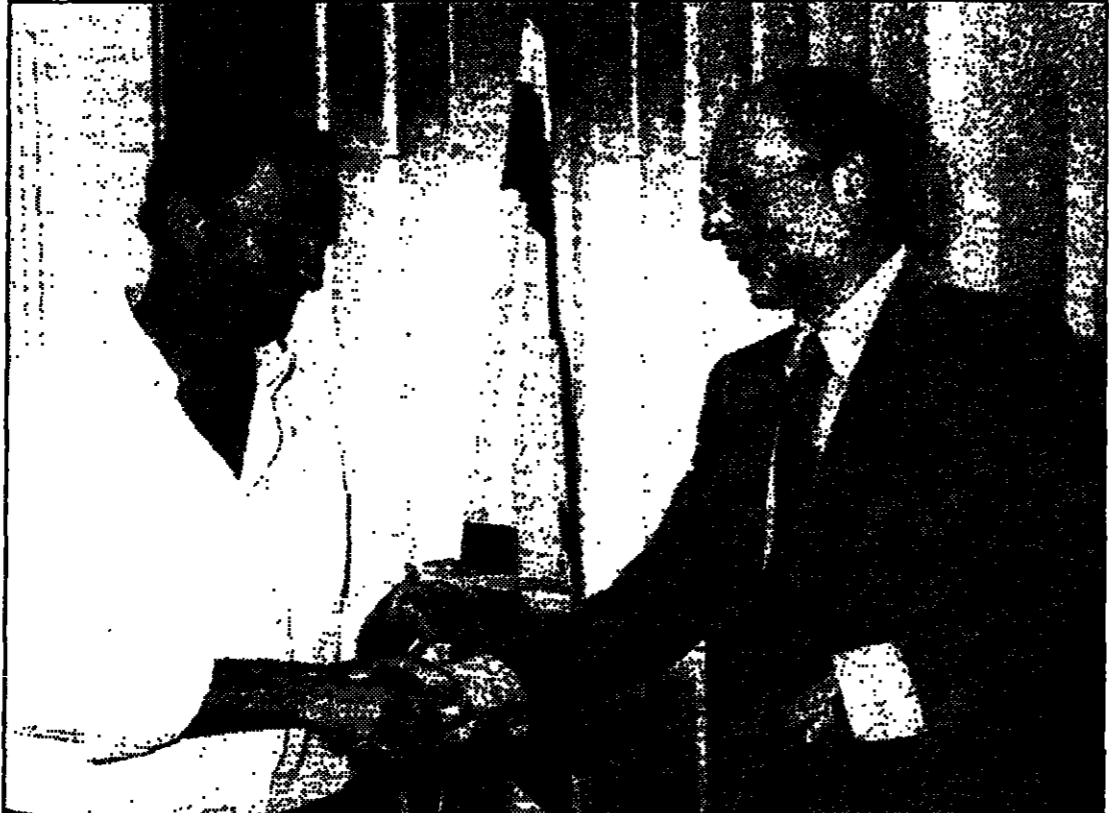
Now that school is almost over, social-welfare workers are asking us to help subsidize summer day camps at community centers and schools.

There are many families living under the poverty line, with three or four children, who just can't pay to send their youngsters to camp, and who are looking to the Toy Fund for assistance.

Several clubhouses for the elderly in distressed neighborhood have again asked the Forsake Me Not Fund to help pay for day trips. Without our assistance, many of these senior citizens will not be able to take advantage of this opportunity. Your support can add a little fun and happiness to their lives.

Remember, how much we do depends on you. Please give generously. Mail your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000. Our new phone number is 02-537-6528.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.



Jerusalem Post publisher and president Norman Spector (right) presents Ra'anana Mayor Ze'ev Bielski with a NIS 10,000 check from the Post's Forsake Me Not fund to help the city's elderly.

Mildred Sonenshine, Charleston, SC. In honor of Neil Leibman's birthday - Louise Leibman, Merion Station, PA. In honor of Max Leserewicz's 100th birthday - Shulamit Elkayam, Madison, WI. \$15 Debra Childress, Yadkinville, NC. \$10 In honor of the marriage of Beatrice Hagelberg and Heinz Marx - Lawrence Gale, Boca Raton, FL. Tilly Lerner, J'im. Can. \$25 Terence and Joanna Miller, Markham, Canada.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 1,448	NIS 82,943
\$1,939	\$25,532.75

(other currencies converted into shekels)

TOY FUND

NIS 160 Avriil Nurick, Kochav Ya'ir. NIS 50 in loving memory of my dear departed - Ursula Kroner, J'im. Hanan Horowitz, Rishon LeZion. NIS 36 in honor of my first great-grandson, Elkana Citron Navch - Anna Citron Rubin, J'im. In loving memory of Joseph Cariel, beloved great-grandfather and grandfather - Yehudit and David Cariel, Eshel Hanasi. \$36 Catherine and Howard Rowley, Plano, TX.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 332	NIS 47,734
\$36	\$13,975.40

WELCOME HOME FUND

NIS 50 in loving memory of my dear departed - Ursula Kroner, J'im. NIS 36 in loving memory of Ralph Garza, beloved uncle - Yehudit and David Cariel, Eshel Hanasi. \$18 Anon., Hartford, CT.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 86	NIS 25,632
\$18	\$6,527

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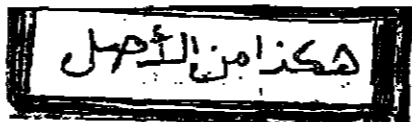
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